

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Nupar, Division of Baldor Electric Co.

Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence

Lean Manufacturing Is A New Way For Nupar

Client Profile:

Nupar - a division of Baldor Electric Company - is located in Claremore, Oklahoma, and employs approximately 90 people. Founded in 1965, the company performs metal stamping and manufactures components for electric motors.

Situation:

Nupar Plant Manager James Penick knew he needed to boost Nupar's efficiency. Ever-increasing customer demands put a strain on operations and had a negative impact on the bottom line. While searching for the best way to improve operational efficiency, Mr. Penick sought help from the Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence (The Alliance), a NIST MEP network affiliate.

Solution:

The Alliance provided a Lean 101 introductory course to Nupar's employees. The course helped convince Nupar management that lean enterprise concepts could enhance the company's productivity. A division of employees engaged in a two-day value stream mapping workshop to identify opportunities to improve flow and eliminate bottlenecks.

The Alliance then coordinated a pilot implementation project. The project--redesigning Nupar's stationary motor switch assembly area--produced remarkable improvements. Nupar continued its transformation in other areas. The nameplate department, which creates metal identification plates, was spending up to two hours a day inspecting products for chronic quality problems. Each day, the department scrapped a large volume of parts. The department reorganized after the mapping process and virtually eliminated waste. It is now much more efficient. Faster production helped eliminate nearly half of the inventory on hand at any one time.

Results:

Retained \$1.5 million in annual sales.

Increased annual sales by \$200,000.

Saved \$250,000 in annual costs.

Reduced distance traveled along assembly lines by 55 percent.

Reduced lead time by 80 percent.

Reduced work-in-process by 75 percent.

Testimonial:

www.mep.nist.gov



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"The Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence helped transform the way we operate--and we made remarkable improvements."

James Penick, Plant Manager